

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01620 100931Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5846
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LUSAKA 1620

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

NAIROBI FOR VOA CHANCELLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

IN ITS FIRST COMMENT ON THE EXCHANGE OF ACCUSATIONS AND COUNTER-
ACCUSTATIONS BETWEEN LUSAKA AND SALISBURY OVER THE ROCKET ATTACK
ON THE BORDER TOWN OF KARIBA, THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY
MAIL WARNS TODAY THAT THE THREAT BY THE SMITH GOVERNMENT TO CUT OFF
POWER TO ZAMBIA COULD BE COUNTERED WITH SIMILAR ACTION BY ZAMBIA.

THE DAILY MAIL, WHICH USUALLY REFLECTS GOVERNMENT THINKING, WRITES
IN AN EDITORIAL COMMENT: "THERE IS NO EARTHLY REASON WHY IT SHOULD
NOT BE THE TURN OF RHODESIA TO BE DENIED OF POWER JUST LIKE SMITH
UNFEELINGLY BELIEVES HE CAN DO SO ON OTHERS."

"WANKIE MINE," THE MAIL EDITORIAL POINTS OUT, "IS ON ZAMBIAN POWER."

ON THE RHODESIAN THREAT OF USING "HOT PURSUIT" TACTICS TO ELIMINATE
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PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01620 100931Z

GUERRILLA BASES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FROM WHERE THE ATTACKS ON
RHODESIA ARE LAUNCHED, THE PAPER SAYS MR. SMITH MUST REMEMBER THAT
THE POLICY OF HOT PURSUIT IS NOT A MONOPOLY OF RHODESIA. AND ZAMBIA
RESERVES THE RIGHT TO "HOT PURSUE" ANY AGGRESSOR.

THE NEWSPAPER, REPEATING THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE THAT
THE ATTACK ON KARIBA WAS THE WORK OF PATRIOTIC FRONT FREEDOM FIGHTERS

SAYS: "FOR PURELY REASONS OF HURT PRIDE ARISING OF BASE RACISM, SMITH HAS CHOSEN TO SHIFT THE BLAME ON THE ZAMBIAN ARMY EVEN WHEN HIS OWN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS TELL SMITH THE BOMBARDMENT WAS THE WORK OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS."

THE MAIL NOTES THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAS BEEN QUICK TO DESCRIBE THE THREAT AS "CHEAP DESPERATE INTIMIDATION," ADDING THAT IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT ZAMBIA WOULD NOT FALL FOR SUCH FORMS OF INTIMIDATION.

"THE TROUBLE ABOUT THE WHITES IN RHODESIA, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE RHODESIA FRONT PARTY, IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING IN SUCH A NARROW WORLD OF IGNORANCE THAT THEY JUST DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE WORLD AROUND THEM," THE EDITORIAL SAYS.

ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, AS LONG AGO AS 1972, ZAMBIA KNEW THE FREEDOM WAR WOULD "HOT UP AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER " AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT IN SALISBURY "WOULD RESORT TO POLITICS OF BLACKMAIL OVER KARIBA POWER."

SAYS THE MAIL: "THE POINT SMITH MUST TAKE NOTE OF IS, LIKE THE POLICY OF HOT PURSUIT, IF IT IS GOOD FOR SMITH, IT IS GOOD FOR OTHERS." ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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